This year the Madras Government very kindly extended their Pykara supply to Chittur and it is our desire to further extend these lines to Tattamangalam in 1120 if the necessary priority could be secured for the purchase of line materials.

In the point of water supply to Ernakulam and Mattancheri we are not as good as we should be. We are taking all action that is possible to enhance the supply.

In the general discussions on the budget there have been some adverse remarks regarding the condition of roads in the towns of Ernakulam and Mattancheri. These roads have been recently repaired by this department with the idea of giving the road a coating of tar macadam. The necessary bitumen was not available as it was not allotted to us by the officers responsible for the rationing of this material. These roads are subjected to heavy military traffic and the ordinary water bound macadam surface will not stand up to this service. I have again taken up this matter of tar macadamising the five and odd miles of road from the Ernakulam North Station to Mattancheri up to British Cochin boundary and I trust I will get the necessary bitumen at least by the end of 1944. Till the tarring is completed I shall be devoting special attention to the maintenance of this road as well as is possible.

There are some cut motions tabled for discussion and I shall not take up any more of your time at this stage.

CUT MOTION No. 13

Machad—Anappara road works

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Sir, I move to reduce the allotment of Rs. 99,317 under 2 (b) other original works communications by Re. 1 *to raise a discussion on the incomplete road work Machad—Anappara and to persuade Government to continue and complete the work now pending construction.* I had occasion, Sir, to bring to the notice of this Hon'ble House on previous occasions the importance of opening up this road and I am sure it will not be denied by the Government. With the growing importance of Ramavarmapuram, which is now also a quasi military centre, (if I may use the word) and the location of important Government institutions in the locality, it will be absolutely essential, Sir, to open up this road as an easy and better means of communication between Ramavarmapuram and the Talappalli head quarters—Vadakkancheri—as also Trichur Town. I may bring to the notice of the Government also that this project was taken up about 5 to 6 years before, I speak subject to correction, and a portion of this road to the extent, to my knowledge, 2 miles and 7 and odd furlongs has been completed. Then the work was stopped and on previous occasions, I was given to understand that the completion of this road was put off till the Naduthode scheme was decided upon, as it was thought that the reservoir that may be constructed may interfere with the construction of the road. Now that I hear from the Hon'ble Member for Engineering that the Naduthode Scheme has been decided upon, I do not think there is any further impediment for the progress of this road. This road will in fact, Sir, open the granary of the Talappalli Taluk—Machad—both to the Trichur Town as well as to the other areas of Talappalli Taluk. It will make these places easily accessible. There are also dense thick forests from which timber is now transported at a very heavy cost and large inconvenience. If the road is opened up, I think it will be most useful for the commercial transactions of the Forest Department also. With the surplus budget before us and absolutely no scarcity for the necessary materials for the opening of the road along, I think the Government will be pleased to consider the scheme and take it up at an early date.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I should like to know the Government's position before discussing the matter further.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Sir, as the Hon'ble Member has already pointed out the construction of this road was suggested by the last Road Board. It was postponed on account of the fact that it would be affected when the proposed Naduthode Scheme was taken up. The road would then be submerged as its alignment was below the full reservoir level of the Naduthodu storage. I notice also that the present Road Board has proposed to have this road, and the work will be taken up as per the regular programme of the Road Board.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know, Sir, whether the proposed Thanikudam Scheme would affect the construction of this road ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The road will have to be aligned above the full level of the Thanikudam reservoir.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Sir, in view of the explanation given by the Hon'ble Member for Engineering, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

Cut motion, by leave, withdrawn

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